

A
SMALL VOICE
TO
ENGLAND.

648.9.10
K

Sent by the present will and order of
the Great and Merciful God of
Heaven and Earth,

A voice to the Shepherds, a voice to the Sheep,
and a voice to the stout-hearted Sinners.

For behold, thus saith the LORD GOD, I even I
will search *England* with candles, and punish those
that are settled on their lees.

And now, O ye Shepherds, hear the word of the
LORD; For as I live saith the LORD GOD, I will
require my flock at your hands.

O ye Sheep, hear the word of the LORD, and now
begin to trim your lamps, and prepare, for the
coming of the bridegroom draweth nigh, and the
great day of God's wrath draweth near and hasteth
greatly; therefore tremble, O Sinners, at the pre-
sence of the LORD, and seek him while he may
be found; for except you repent, you must all
likewise perish; so be perswaded and fear God.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year M. DCC. XLIX,

T O T H E
R E A D E R.

AND now, my Friend, I fear you will think this little Book is full of hard Sayings ; but if ye know the goodness and wisdom of God, this little Book may be called the Love of GOD to the Souls of Men ; for at last you may find oil to heal every wound that Sin has made, and then ye will have cause to bless and praise God that you have ever seen this little Book ; for it is a true and sincere call to Sinners, that they may repent and carefully look after their own Salvation : and in my next Book you shall have a full and plain instruction how you may keep up in the ways of GOD.



A
SMALL VOICE

To the PEOPLE of

ENGLAND.

JANUARY, 1749.



Earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD, and do not neglect his counsel, but receive his messengers and believe the truth, and let the LORD gather you under his wings, and then you will be safe in the arms of his love, from all the evil that is coming upon the earth. But, O ye people, how hard is it to make you believe that there is even now fresh Revelations from heaven unto Man about the things of God, and what he is now about to do; yet I must tell you many things about this Church and Nation, and what it is that the LORD would have you to believe and do, even now if you desire to escape his judgments and to be saved by his mercies, for a dreadful black cloud still hangs over this land, and if it should burst it will make us to quake and tremble, and sink down like the city of *Lima*. O, Sirs, have you forgot that dreadful day? And now I must also tell you a little about the coming of the people called *Methodists*, and what was the first cause of their coming; together with

many other things as concern this Church and Nation : and at last, in few words, I must tell you how you may get into a state of Salvation and so escape GOD's wrath, and also how you may know when ye are in a true state of Salvation, and this will prove to you the greatest happiness as you can find upon earth ; and it is high time for every one to look after this : for wickedness is ripe, the measure is full and runneth over in many places : and O how dreadful will it be when GOD shall search the world for Sinners, then they only will be the happy people as have made their peace with GOD, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord.

O YE Sinners ! be perswaded, do not trifle with your everlasting Souls, do not forget your own Souls, do not neglect your Salvation any longer ; but fear GOD and seek him early, O ye young people : for it is a blessed thing to remember your Creator in the days of your youth, and old people need not despair if they can repent and believe in GOD's mercies ; but this is hard work for old age, so do not leave your greatest work to do at last, you that are not yet come to old age. And now, O ye rich people, here is a word from the LORD unto you also, for the LORD would not that you should perish, if ye will submit to come in at the low door of faith and repentance, and take care not to trust in your uncertain riches, for they will do
you

you no good in the next world, except you do much good with them while you are here ; but one thing must be said to you as is needful, and that is too often seen, for when rich people die they commonly leave their riches to those as have no need of them, and so do no good with them neither in life nor death : whereas when they come to die and must leave all behind them, if they would seek out for poor, sober, honest people to leave it to, this would even force GOD to show them mercy through JESUS CHRIST ; this would be laying up treasures in heaven. And now, O ye poor people, here is a word for you also, for to be poor and wicked is the most miserable of all people, for such are miserable in this world, and that which is to come ; and how many such do we see daily, who can curse and swear, and go on in all sorts of wickedness, though they are as poor as *Job* ; and these sure had better never be born, than to live and die so : O may the LORD give you grace to turn your hearts, and consider your miserable case, and to seek for mercy, grace and faith, to turn you from your evil ways. And now I have called you all, both old and young, rich and poor, now I must tell you a little about this Church and Nation, for surely the LORD hath shewn me these things, and now requires I should make them known ; and though I have been many years writing about them, yet ye seem as if ye did not know what I have written, so now they shall be printed, that

ye may know them better ; for about twelve years ago, according to the ways of GOD, it pleased the LORD to look down from heaven to behold the things that was done upon earth, and lo, he found the state of this Church and Nation to be very bad, for all true religion was grown so scarce that it was hardly to be found, and the truth and heart of the Gospel almost hid or lost among the Christian professors, so that true zeal was grown cold, and the ways of GOD grown dark amongst us, so most people lay dark and dead in trespasses and sin, as if they had not heard of the Gospel, nor of JESUS CHRIST who came to save Sinners ; and by this great neglect of the Gospel-grace, sin was got to so high a pitch that it cried to heaven for vengeance ; and when Justice looked down and saw the deplorable state of this Nation of people called Christians, he said unto Mercy, do you see how these people called Christians live ? do they at all live like Christians ? are they not Gentiles still, fulfilling the desires of their own will, and living after their own hearts lusts, and know not me, saith the LORD ? surely they have only a name to live, while they are dead, dead in trespasses and sin, being strangers to GOD and aliens from the life of JESUS CHRIST : for do they take any care to obey my Gospel ? or do they regard their own souls, for which I have paid so dear a price ? yet do they take any care to keep their baptismal vows as they made, to fight against the world,

the flesh and the devil? for do they not spend their time in all sort of wickedness; in pride, in high living, in breaking my Sabbaths, and in doing their own pleasures on my holy day? is not cursing, swearing, whoredom, drunkenness, lying, backbiting, malice and revenge, and evil-speaking, deceit and guile, disobedience to parents, to masters and mistresses, to rulers and governors, and indeed all sorts of wickedness, to be found in this land of people called Christians? do they not slight my mercies, disregard my word, grieve my Spirit, trample upon the blood of the covenant, and do despite to the spirit of Grace? so that my soul hath no pleasure in them, saith the Lord God of hosts; surely it still repenteth me that I have made man, and was there not a few as fears, loves, and serves me, I would surely destroy them all, so cut off this sinful Nation from the earth: why should they live to cumber the ground, seeing they bear such evil fruit? for sure my Church is become unto me as a tree that hath nothing but leaves, or the fruit it doth bare is only wild grapes or figs, so bad that they cannot be eaten; or like fish being fed with wrong diet, when they come to be opened, make the beholders sick to see them, much more to eat them; and thus it is with my Church, or rather with the hearts of the people as drink in, eat and swallow down sin and false doctrines, and these defile the soul and make the heart

desperately wicked: who can know it? but I the LORD search the hearts and try the reins, to see what every one's reward will be; so let these sinners be cut off from the earth, that others may fear and turn unto me. Then Mercy rose up and pleaded for them, saying, O my Father, do not destroy them yet, till I see whether they will return or no, for in some there is hope, so I will send out my servants to stir them up, and to give them warning, and to tell them of thine anger, and how they may escape it if they will believe and receive the counsel as is given them, if not, then let them be cut down: and the Lord GOD did so, and spared the people of *England*; and raised up and sent out his servants more than common to call them to repentance and faith in CHRIST JESUS, and to restore those things of the Spirit as have been long lost, through the frailty of nature, and too great a love of the things of the world; and from this came up these despised people called *Methodists*, and for this end was they sent, namely, to reform this Nation from its dead and dark state of sin and carnal security as it was fallen into; and though they have many lies and false reports raised on them, yet the work is of GOD, and doth and will prosper; and blessed will they be as believe and receive it, because it was the free and unmerited mercy of GOD to this Nation; and at such a time when Justice was ready to destroy us in his wrath for
our

our crying sins and disobedience to his gospel, and great neglect of our own salvation; and therefore now it is no wonder that we see the judgments of GOD fly about us as they do; since so many of this nation, instead of taking warning and fearing GOD, and turning to him by faith and repentance, they are still in their sins and fighting against GOD, by despising and neglecting those very things as are done, to screen them from his wrath. But, O ye people, I must tell you that this is a day of salvation to all that believe, and a sure visitation from the LORD to try and prove you, whether you will turn unto him or no: and when the space of time as is given you to repent and turn to GOD is ended, then the LORD will surely send his messenger to see how you have improved it; if you have improved it well, by believing and turning to GOD with your whole heart, then happy will it be for you, but if ye do not, then sin lieth at your door, and will sink you down to hell, except ye repent; so now be perswaded, fear GOD, and do not despise his messengers, but take warning while ye may, and fly to the LORD while he may be found; do not neglect his counsel, but call upon him, and beg for the gift of his holy Spirit to turn you from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto GOD, before it is too late: for it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hand of GOD when his wrath is kindled against you, for our GOD is a
con-

consuming fire to those as fear him not, nor take no care to obey his Gospel, but delight in wickedness and rebellion against God, and JESUS CHRIST both God and man, who came into the world to save sinners, if they will be saved by him: but how will you escape if you neglect so great salvation? and of all people none will be so miserable in the next world as the wicked Christians: O that ye were wise, that ye understood this, that ye would but consider your own everlasting Souls, *For what will you give in exchange for your soul?* better you had never been born, than to lose your Souls. So now be perswaded, do not forsake your own mercies, but seek after God, and your souls shall live through JESUS CHRIST our Lord: and thus endeth the first Part of my little Book.

A N D now the next is to shew you how you may get into a state of Salvation, and so be received into God's favour again, from which we have all greatly revolted; and how you may know when you are in a state of Salvation, as is the truest riches and will last forever. O sinners, come, in a new life begin, and God will shew mercy and pardon your sin: O fall at his feet and for your sins weep, and beg for a pardon at JESUS's feet: *O come and let us return unto the Lord, for he hath torn and he will heal us, he hath smitten and he will bind us up, after two days he will revive us, in the third day*

day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight; then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord, that his going forth is prepared as the morning, and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the former and latter rain on the Earth, Hosea vi. 1, 2, 3. Then shall the waters of Zion be poured over England, and the waters of life upon every true penitent sinner; therefore now behold, for thus saith the LORD, *Return unto me, and I will return unto you*, saith the LORD, and forgive your iniquities and love you freely; but if ye will not be perswaded, then I will whet my glittering sword of justice, and come upon you as *a thief in the night*, and cut you off in your sins. O England, fear God, and hear what you may do to be saved; for though true it is the Christian faith is so well known in England, that soon after children are born they are baptized into the faith of CHRIST, and received into his fold, and if they die infants they are as surely saved as they are born; but at our baptism, you all know, there is made a solemn vow that we should keep God's commandments all the days of our lives, and fight manfully under CHRIST's banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, but it is too too plainly seen that as we grow up we grow up in sin much more than in grace, and so break God's commandments and our own vows too, and by so doing we grieve the Spirit of God, sin away our first grace, and cause God's holy Spirit

Spirit to depart from us, and so plunge ourselves into a state of damnation, as bad or much worse than when we was first born; for then we had only our original sin to damn us, but now our daily actual transgressions lies at our door, and if we die in this state we must perish, there is no help for it; and this is the lost state as we fall into after baptism: and though some are greater sinners than others, yet they as are the least have more to pay than they ever will be able to pay; therefore now comes on repentance and remission of sins, but as we sin away our first grace, so we cannot repent nor turn to God again without a fresh supply of his good Spirit to enable us so to do, therefore our LORD has bid us ask for his holy Spirit, and it shall be given unto us: now the first work of the Spirit of God in our souls, is to shew us what great sinners we be, that being convinced of sin, we may repent and cry for mercy, grace and faith, to turn our hearts from dead works to serve the living God; the spirit of God, as the candle of the LORD, searches our hearts, and shews our known and secret sins, both of thought, word, and deed, and this will grieve and trouble our souls, and make us to cry out and say, *O Lord, what shall we do to be saved?* for the sight of our sins will shake our house of clay, and throw down all our pretended self-righteousness, and make us to cry out and say, *God be merciful to me a sinner*, for now I see that in me dwelleth no good thing, for all my
righteous-

righteousness is as filthy rags in thy sight, O
 LORD: this will make us to tremble and
 fear before GOD, lest he should cut us off
 before our peace is made with him; then
 we begin to search and look about us, and
 strive to forsake all our known and secret
 sins, and go on in the ways of GOD, and
 the Spirit of the LORD helps us forward
 so to do; and we begin to pray and to
 hear GOD's word, and to read it, that we
 may know what it is we ought to do; and
 thus we go on from day to day till we find
 the LORD: for though we could now do all
 the will of GOD, and forsake all sin, yet when
 our hearts are rightly and truly wounded
 with a deep sense and sight of our sins, it
 makes us to feel a heavy load as we can
 no way remove, for it is the guilt of the
 sins of our whole life, and till we are
 wounded with it, we cannot be healed;
 but all true penitents do feel it, and groan
 long under it, and then they see they are great
 debtors to GOD, but have nothing to pay,
 for they cannot make an atonement for one
 sin, no, though they have run up ten thou-
 sand talents, yet the LORD must forgive
 them freely or they perish: for this is the
 word of GOD against them, *The soul that*
sinneth, it shall die; this is the word of GOD,
 and over the Sinner's head hangs a reveng-
 ing rod, and though they hear of a Sa-
 viour, yet they know not as yet that he
 will be their Saviour, yet the LORD keeps
 them up in hope that he will; so they
 wait upon the LORD in his own ways, till
 it

It pleases God by his Spirit to open their eyes and shew them JESUS CHRIST, and what he hath done to save sinners, and if they can believe aright, they may be saved by him ; then this makes poor sinners hearts rejoice, and lift up their heads, for their redemption draweth nigh ; then they cry, *O Lord, we do believe, help thou our unbelief.* O give us faith to lay hold on him ! O blessed JESUS, hear our cry ! then the word of God tells them that JESUS CHRIST hath died to save them, and hath paid the debt of sin for them, by suffering the wrath of God in their stead, by fulfilling the whole and perfect will of God in their stead, as they was no ways able to do, and then he died a painful and a shameful death, and shed his dear heart's blood to wash their guilty souls from sin ; and they that can believe in him *shall not perish, but have everlasting life* ; for he died for their sins and rose again for their justification, and by his *stripes they may be healed* and saved ; then the sinners rejoice and pray, O blessed Saviour of all that believe, behold we come unto thee, weary and heavy laden with the guilt and burden of the sins of our whole life : O that thou wouldst wash them all away in thy blood, that they may no more rise up against us in judgment : O LORD, in mercy cloath our naked souls in thy best robe, even the robe of thy own perfect righteousness, for our righteousness is but as filthy rags and cannot stand before God, O let our sins be laid
to

to thy charge, and let thy righteousness be imputed to us, that by thy heavy stripes we may be healed, and received into thy favour again, from which we have deeply revolted and gone astray like lost sheep. O LORD hear, O LORD forgive, O LORD defer not for thy dear mercies sake, but hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto thee. Then the LORD hears the sinners cry, and makes himself known unto them, and grants their request, and gives them faith to believe in him ; and being justified by faith they find they have peace with God, through JESUS CHRIST their Lord ; and they do know it, for it is sealed unto them by the holy Ghost sent down from heaven into their hearts, and assures them of God's favour and pardon of all their sins, and by the grace of God they become new creatures, leading new lives, and striving to walk in all the ways of God, as is set before them in the New Testament ; but not trusting in their own righteousness, but in JESUS CHRIST alone for their everlasting salvation ; and then striving to please God by fighting against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and perfecting holiness in the fear and love of God ; giving glory to God who hath done so much for them, and longing to declare unto others what the LORD hath done for their souls, that they may bring them in also : for this is the right and true way of the Gospel repentance, and they that will not come to heaven

ven through this low door of faith and repentance, cannot come there at all, for JESUS CHRIST is *the way, the truth, and the life*, and they that will not go to heaven through him cannot be saved, for *by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, even JESUS CHRIST our Lord.* Amen.

AN HYMN.

A Midst thy wrath remember love,
Restore thy people LORD ;
Nor let a Father's chastning prove
Like an avenging Sword.

LORD, we confess our guilt to thee,
May we mourn for all our Sin ;
Our helpless impotence we see,
And beg support divine.

O GOD forgive our follies past,
Be thou forever nigh,
O LORD of our Salvation haste,
And save us or we die.

Our sins a heavy burden are,
And o'er our heads are gone,
Too heavy they for us to bear,
Too great for us to atone.

But JESUS CHRIST, O dearest LORD,
It's not too great for thee,
For thou didst die for all the world,
And thou hast dy'd for me.

Yea, thou didst for this Nation die ;
O may we live to thee.
O give us grace and faith to turn
From all iniquity.

Amen



re-
E-
the
en
ce
of
us